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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 10 January 1984

1. [] stopped by on H/L. He said that Swaziland was a great place and that the housing was fine. He is happy to be staying for a second tour. Bureau personnel (Bill's wife especially I gather) have established valuable local contacts in the Spanish-speaking community, which are very helpful to the bureau, including one into the fringes of the royal family.

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Bill said he thought the bureau had come along quite well. There are still a few rough edges and a bit of "settling in" is still needed, but these things will come with time.

Bill had good words for the American staff and said that the monitorial staff was quite impressive in some departments, particularly [] (who cruises on his own time) and the two who were hired from Nairobi. The new recruits from South Africa also look good.

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Bill said the bureau's tech was satisfactory if constantly supervised and if things are carefully explained to him. Bill says the tech is good with smaller equipment but not so good with the larger units. He hopes the planned Transtel course will get the tech over this hurdle. Bill says, in any case, the tech is better than [] the former Tel Aviv tech, and could not be replaced if we lost him. There is only one other person in Swaziland who understands the commo paths through PTT and he works for the phone company; he would like to come to work for FBIS but we can't match his salary.

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Bill had good words for the JAO, [] and for the new GSO who, he says, is quite supportive. He said that [] but also is very supportive. The Ambassador is friendly, a "nice guy," but still seems to be at a loss about what to do with himself. Bill says that the Embassy group now has accepted FBIS and things are going smoothly; at first they didn't understand us or know how to treat us, but now they have relaxed and relations are productive.

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Bill says that the Swazis are nice and fairly passive. He attributes most of the rising crime wave to non-Swazis, people from Mozambique in particular. He mentioned that in one break-in the thieves had stolen rice; the Swazis don't like rice. He noted that the stealing of food is indicative, as there is a lot of hunger in the area. But, he feels that with the recent security improvements the FBIS houses are pretty secure.

I asked about the TV project. Bill said they had identified three reception spots, all of which seemed to be in line-of-sight of the bureau. This will mean a higher mast, and consequently a wind problem, but he feels this can be overcome. The antenna is being fabricated

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in South Africa and is promised for this month. Bill added that the South Africans are as slow as the Swazis and that it is pointless to expect anything to happen rapidly.

(cc: D/FBIS, C/DRD, C/MOD, C/ED, C/Hong Kong Bureau)

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